To His Excellency Sir Peregrine Maitland, *Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major General Commanding His Majesty's Forces therein, &c. &c. &c.*

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THE Petition of the under-named People of Color, residing in different parts of the Province, Humbly Sheweth, that your Petitioners duly appreciate the excellent constitution of the Province, and anxiously desire to enjoy more fully the many privileges it confers, and from which they are, in their present situation, in a great measure excluded. One of the many, and perhaps the greatest disadvantage under which they labor, is the want of means of educating their children—which desirable object they fondly cherish the hopes of being able to accomplish, should they be formed into a settlement, where they could combine and unite their means and exertions for so laudable a purpose as that of securing to their posterity the means of obtaining a moral and religious education, with all its happy consequences; and your petitioners hope that it will be the means of preventing the system of kidnapping which is now carried on through His Majesty's Provinces by the Georgia and Virginia kidnappers, from the southern states of America; a recent instance of which your Petitioners beg leave to mention to your Excellency. In the month of April last, a black man by the name of James Smith, in the employ of Mr. R. M. Long, of Clinton, was seized in his bed, in the night, by a band of slave-holding ruffians from the south, and conveyed across the Niagara River, gagged and pinioned. He was kept concealed in some barrack while the Virginia kidnapper was making arrangements for proceeding onwards with his captive; but very fortunately the poor man made his escape, and after lying concealed for 48 hours without fire or food, actually swam the Niagara River in the night, and thus secured his retreat. The poor fellow landed at the fishing ground on this shore, and was first discovered by a party of fishermen, buffetting the chilly element nearly exhausted. He states that some of the party who seized him were disguised, and are supposed to be Canadians bribed for the disgraceful purpose. Last summer—1827—there was another poor man taken from this Province, by the Kentucky or Virginia kidnappers, and carried into slavery, which is a violation of the glorious laws of this province; and it is disgraceful to the free and independent state of New York, after riding herself from the curse of slavery, that kidnapping can be carried on from this province through her. Your Petitioners are of opinion, could they but unite themselves together into a township, it would prevent kidnapping, and we could become useful to our King and country. We know that His Majesty's Government have given us land on Lake Simcoe, but there are many disadvantages which prevent us from getting to that place. To mention them would be to make this petition too long. Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray, that your Excellency will be so graciously kind as to grant to your Petitioners—contiguous to the main road leading from Burlington to Lake H[illegible] portion of the waste lands of the Crown, as to your Excellency shall seem meet, on which to establish a settlement of Colored People, and your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.